

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 11594 281801Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 NEAE-00 (ISO)W

----- 103092

P R 281752Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3278

INFO AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T LONDON 11594

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, YE, UK, SA, US

SUBJ: SAUDI PROPOSAL TO INVOLVE UK IN YEMEN ARMS PROGRAM

REF: STATE 175262

1. WE BRIEFED LUCAS, HEAD OF FCO MIDDLE EAST DEPARTMENT, ON JULY 28 AS PER REFTTEL, STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF SPEED IN IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM NOW AGREED ON. WE ALSO SPECIFIED THAT USG DOES NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE SHOULD SAUDIS AND YEMENIS SEEK PROCURE WEAPONS FROM UK OR OTHER WESTERN SOURCES. LUCAS LISTENED RECEPTIVELY. HE NOTED THAT HMG, CONCERNED BY EFFECT OF THE DELAYS IN US-SAUDI PACKAGE, HAD BEEN PREPARED TO SEND A SURVEY TEAM TO JIDDA AND/OR SANA TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF YEMENI NEEDS, AND HAD MADE AN OFFER TO HAMDI TO HELP OUT. HOWEVER, FCO ON JULY 28 RECEIVED REPORT FROM AMBASSADOR CARDEN THAT HAMDI HAS AGREED THAT SPEED IN DELIVERY OF PRESENT PACKAGE IS OF PRIMARY IMPORTANCE AND THAT IF SAUDIS ARE PAYING FOR PACKAGE THEY SHOULD HAVE SAY ON SOURCE OF THE ARMS. LUCAS CONCLUDED THAT "WE SHOULD NOT NOW CONFUSE THE ISSUE BY COMPETITION".

2. WE APPRECIATE BEING KEPT INFORMED ON THIS MATTER, AND WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY REACTION BY DEPT AND DOD TO AMBASSADOR SCOTES' PROPOSAL AT END OF SANA 1996 RE EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF US-UK COORDINATION ON

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SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 11594 281801Z

SALES PROGRAM.

RICHARDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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